Requirement of water for agriculture in Tamil Nadu

2489. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the requirement of water for agriculture for a riparian State like Tamil Nadu in terms of percentage of intensity in million acre feet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present total water availability from all resources in the State for the purpose; and

(d) the steps Government has taken to prevent water shortage for agriculture in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Tamil Nadu has assessed the requirement of water for Agriculture purpose. The estimated demand of surface and ground water is about 54,395 Million Cubit Metre (MCM) as on 2001.

At present total availability of water from all sources in the State are as under:-

1. Annual Water potential of both surface and ground water is 46,540 MCM.

2. Surface water potentials accounts 24,864 MCM.

3. The utilization of surface water for irrigation is 24 lakh hectare.

4. The utilization of ground water recharge is about 22,423 MCM.

The percentage usage of water in terms of domestic (6%) 3263.70 MCM, industrial use (27.7%) 5067.42 MCM and agriculture (66.3%) 36063.885 MCM as estimated, released by Government of Tamil Nadu.

Government of Tamil Nadu has taken various steps to prevent water shortage for Agriculture purpose. Agriculture Engineering department is executing Rain water harvesting and Run off management structures *viz,* Check dams, Percolation Ponds, Farm ponds etc. under stated funded as well as NABARD assisted Rain Water Harvesting and Run off management schemes.

The components executed under these schemes are Masonry Check dams, Percolation ponds with recharge shaft, Farm Ponds, Recharge Shafts in the existing water bodies and New village tanks/Ooranies.

Rehabilitation of farmers hit by drought

2490. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: